

work together with small businesses across the country towards the recovery of our national economy.

Small businesses have long been the bedrock of our Nation's economy and many would agree that they still are. Even with the advent of modern-day multi-national corporations, most of our day-to-day purchases take place at "mom and pop" small businesses.

Moreover, 99 percent of all independent companies and businesses in the U.S. are considered small businesses.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, these small businesses account for 52 percent of all U.S. workers. These small businesses also provide a continuing source of vitality for the American economy. Small businesses in the U.S. produced three-fourths of the economy's new jobs between 1990 and 1995, and represent an entry point into the economy for new groups. Women, for instance, participate heavily in small businesses.

The number of female-owned businesses climbed by 89 percent, to an estimated 8.1 million, between 1987 and 1997, and women-owned sole proprietorships were expected to reach 35 percent of all such ventures by the year 2000. Small firms also tend to hire a greater number of older workers and people who prefer to work part-time.

One strength that small businesses are known for is their ability to respond quickly to changing economic conditions. They often know their customers personally and are especially suited to meet local needs. There are tons of stories of startup companies catching national attention and growing into large corporations. Just a few examples of these types of startup businesses making big include the computer software company Microsoft; the package delivery service Federal Express; sports clothing manufacturer Nike; the computer networking firm America Online; and ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's.

Through the passage of S. 3253 we will be temporarily extending programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through the end of July 2010. With the passage of this bill we will be helping small businesses and communities across the Nation. We will also be helping to drive our economy upward and will be helping businesses across the Nation.

We must always ensure that we place a high level of priority on small businesses. It is also important that we work towards ensuring that small businesses receive all the tools and resources necessary for their continued growth and development.

I would like to again thank my colleague Sen. MARY LANDRIEU for introducing S. 3253. I ask my colleagues for their support of this legislation as well as their continued support for small businesses across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support S. 3253 and the rule.

#### THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me

in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Mr. Craig Sherwood was born on February 3, 1966, and was influenced at an early age by the sense of "duty, honor, country" that was enforced at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was highly impressed by their integrity and strived to be like the officers he had seen at the academy. His father served in the Korean War and his uncle had served in the Vietnam War. Mr. Sherwood enlisted in August 1985 at age 19 and was sent to several training camps including airborne camp where he trained with parachutes and infiltration maneuvers. Afterwards, he was sent to ranger camp where he was put through rigorous training programs and eventually came through 43 pounds thinner! After training, he was sent to Germany and was stationed over 50 men and four canons. Mr. Sherwood was placed in 1989 to hold off the Soviet Union forces and was outnumbered three to one but was able to hold them off for 45 minutes, ensuring a U.S. victory. I have learned that despite the pride of serving the Nation at home and abroad, there is still a danger that is faced. I have gained an understanding and appreciation for those who have served and given their time to preserve freedom in the U.S. Mr. Sherwood's story portrays the sanctity of life and how important it is to protect those moments with loved ones and to never give up.—Alexis Webber.

#### HONORING PARENTS FOR MEGAN'S LAW FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a nonprofit organization that serves my district, Parents for Megan's Law.

Parents of Megan's Law have demonstrated an overwhelming amount of commitment to serving the Long Island community. My constituents rely on our nonprofits for the vital services they offer. The continuous selfless acts of Parents for Megan's Law are admirable.

I am proud to honor Parents for Megan's Law for their extraordinary work in the community.

#### IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF HERMAN KAMMERMAN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 28, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Herman Kammerman, whose lifelong dedication to promoting consumer rights, workers rights and social justice has made a lasting impression on the citizens of our community.

In 1972, Mr. Kammerman was appointed Director of Consumer Affairs by the late Ralph Perk, former Mayor of Cleveland. He was relieved of that position for ruffling corporate feathers, but I reappointed him when I became Mayor in 1977. As Director of Consumer Affairs in my administration, Mr. Kammerman worked tirelessly to expose unfair practices in the marketplace. Thanks to his efforts, we implemented several consumer protection laws, including a requirement to date perishable grocery items. His work also paved the way for an ordinance which mandated that all gas stations post their prices, as well as an ordinance which made it illegal for companies to advertise sale prices for products without sufficient inventories in stock.

During and following his tenure as a consumer affairs advocate, Mr. Kammerman was a proud tool and die maker at Ford Motor Company. He served as vice-president of UAW Local 420 and served as chairman for the UAW's Council for Consumer Services.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor of Herman Kammerman, a man who lived his life with great joy and in dedicated service to others. I offer my sincere condolences to his wife, Annette Solomon; to his children, Walter, Kathleen, and Teresa; and to his five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and friends. Mr. Kammerman's love for his family and devotion to protecting the rights of consumers and workers will be always appreciated and remembered.